Export of Petroleum Products

873. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering the export of petroleum products;

(b) if so, the details of the products, their prices and the countries to whom the same have been decided to be exported; and

(c) the amount of foreign exchange which is likely to be earned from the export of these products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) India is a net importer of petroleum. In the light of growing demand of petroleum products, more than doubling of refining capacity during 9th plan period and the indigenous production of crude oil not keeping pace with the same, incremental demand would have to be met primarily by importing crude oil. Petroleum products would be imported/exported to the extent of the gap in production and demand of individual products. However, Government have initiated steps to take care of the surplus products, if any, in view of increase in domestic refining capacity. The export of Naphtha, MS, HSD and ATF has since been decanalised.

Regulatory Authority for Petroleum Sector

874. SHRI R. S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up regulatory authority for petroleum sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to change pricing mechanism of petroleum sector from present administered prices; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) Government have

decided to establish a regulatory framework to oversee the functioning of and enforcing a competitive framework in the Hydrocarbon Sector. Various aspects of regulation in respect of the upstream, downstream and natural gas sectors have not been finalised as yet.

(c) and (d) Pursuant to the Government decision of November, 1997, to dismantle administered pricing mechanism (APM) in phases, the system of retention pricing has been abolished for all (existing and new) refineries. As per the decision, Consumer prices of all petroleum products have been decontrolled except motor spirit, high speed diesel, aviation turbine fuel, kerosene (PDS) and liquified petroleum gas (domestic). The prices of high speed diesel are required to be fixed on import parity basis up-to ex-storage point level and pricing of other controlled products is to be moved towards import parity.

Petrol and LPG Distributorship to the Families of Kargil Victims in Himachal Pradesh

875. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the family members of those killed in Kargil war from Himachal Pradesh allotted gas agencies, petrol pumps etc. till date with their full details, names etc. and the locations where such agencies have been allotted in each case; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Defence have so far recommended the names of 34 widows/next of kin of the Defence personnel, killed in "Operation Vijay' in Kargil, belonging to Himachal Pradesh for allotment of retail outlet dealerships/LPG distributorships under the Special Scheme. The Government have already approved allotments in respect of 21 persons, the details of which are given in the statement (*See* below).

A decision in the remaining cases will be taken on the basis of the feasibility surveys of the locations made by the oil companies.